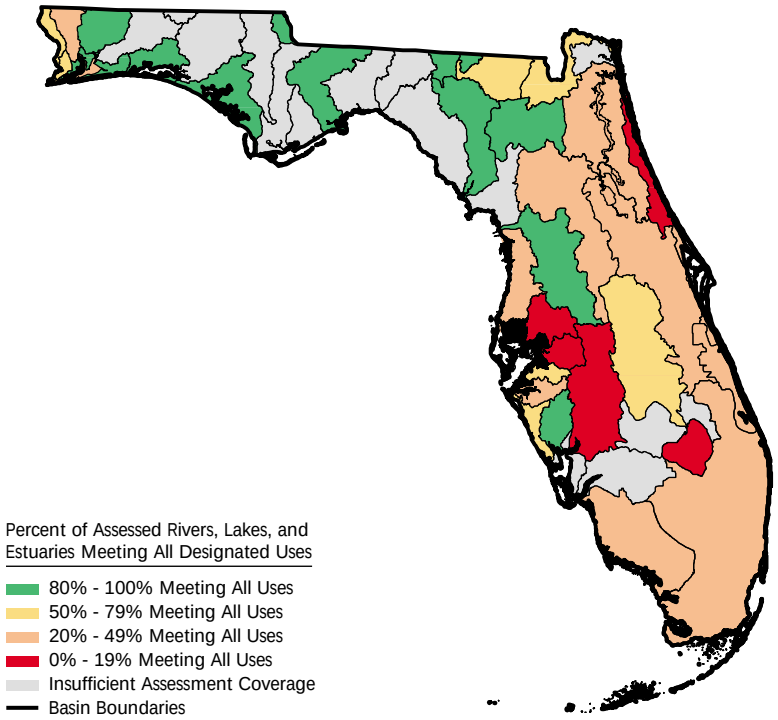
Florida



For a copy of the Florida 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

The overall majority of Florida's surface waters are of good quality, but problems exist around densely populated urban areas, primarily in central and southern Florida. In rivers, nutrient enrichment, low dissolved oxygen/organic enrichment, siltation, and pathogens are the leading causes of degraded water quality. In lakes, the leading problems result from nutrients and algae. In estuaries, nutrient enrichment, metals, and algae degrade quality. Urban stormwater, agricultural runoff, industrial and municipal point sources, and construction are the major sources of water pollution in Florida.

The state recognizes the integrity of the following ecosystems as special state concerns: Everglades system, Florida Bay, Florida Keys, and Apalachicola River and Bay. Other issues of special concern are widespread mercury contamination in both marine and freshwater fish, protection of coastal areas and estuaries because of their ecological importance and significant contribution to Florida's economy, and integration of water quantity and quality decisions.

Ground Water Quality

Data from over 2,900 monitoring wells and 1,300 private water supply wells in Florida's ambient monitoring network indicate generally good water quality, but local ground water contamination problems exist. Agricultural chemicals, including aldicarb, alachlor, bromacil, simazine, and ethylene dibromide (EDB) have caused local and, in the case of EDB, regional problems. Other threats include petroleum products from leaking underground storage tanks, nitrates from dairy and other livestock operations, fertilizers and pesticides in stormwater runoff, toxic chemicals in leachate from hazardous waste sites, dry cleaner operations, and landfills. The state requires periodic testing of all community water systems for 118 toxic organic chemicals.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Florida's point source permitting process was modified in 1995 with the delegation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program to Florida, but does not include stormwater permitting. The state wastewater program issues permits for facilities that discharge to either surface or ground water. The state permit for surface water dischargers now serves as the NPDES permit. Florida permits about 4,794

ground water and surface water discharge facilities. The state also encourages reuse of treated wastewater (primarily for irrigation) and the use of constructed and natural wetlands for treatment of wastewater as alternatives to direct discharge.

Florida has established several programs focused on the restoration or preservation of state waters. The 1987 Surface Water Improvement and Management Act requires management and restoration plans for preserving or restoring priority waterbodies and setting of Pollutant Load Reduction Goals (PLRGs) for those waterbodies. The 1999 Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Watershed Restoration Act to provide a process for restoring waters through the establishment and implementation of TMDLs for pollutants of impaired waters. The state has also purchased environmentally sensitive lands for protection since 1963.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

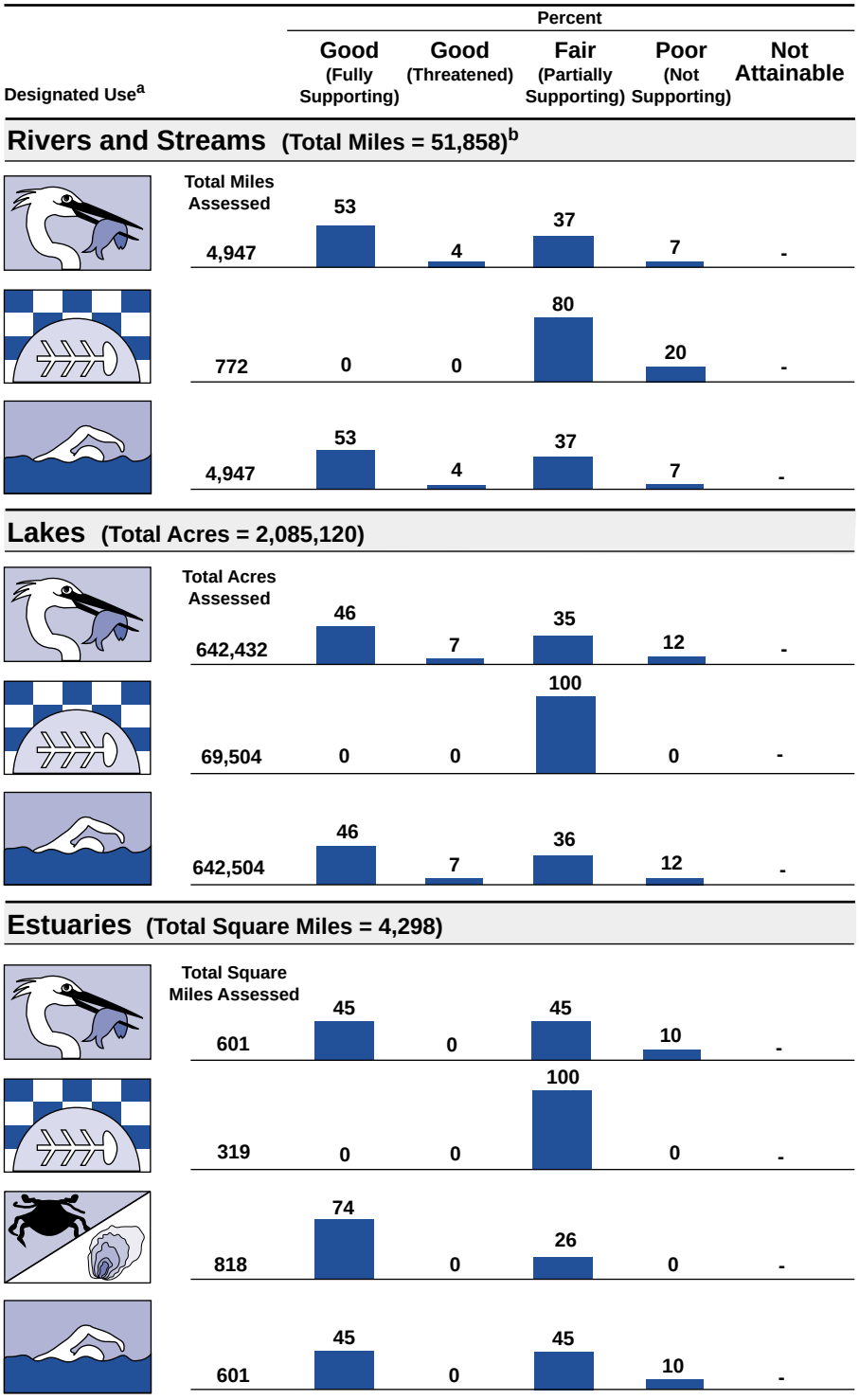
Florida's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program was integrated with the Ground Water Ambient Monitoring Program in 1996, while SWAMP's biocriteria and bioassessment work was moved to a separate section. Florida has adopted a tiered Integrated Water Resources Monitoring Network, which includes sampling of both surface and ground waters, to assess state waters. Tier 1 answers questions on a statewide or regional scale. Tier II addresses basin-specific or waterbody-specific questions. Tier III includes monitoring associated with regulatory permits and evaluations of TMDLs and BMPs.

Florida is developing assessment methods and criteria for wetlands.

[a] A subset of Florida's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Florida



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.